

# The long-bearded man: Storytelling tips and Learning tools

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## **Before narration:**

Introduce this as a folktale from India about a man who tries to change people's opinions of him by changing his looks.

## **Storytelling:**

- Use appropriate gestures. For example, place your hand on your chin to show a thinking/musing man
- Ask the children to guess what happens when the man tries to use a flame to trim his beard and after hearing their suggestions, reveal the ending
- Show facial expressions such as shock and bewilderment for when the man's face is on fire and pretend to put out the imaginary fire on the face
- Ask kids to repeat the sound of the flames with you: Whoosh!

## **After narration:**

- Extrapolation-ask the children to suggest :
  - a different ending for the story by which the man proves he is smart
  - alternate ways by which the man could have trimmed his beard
- Ask the children if they have heard of generalizations or judgments based on looks? [Side note: Another proverb from South India says you can believe a thief but not a short guy.] Have a discussion on whether it is right to make such judgments?
- Ask the children to describe the man using adjectives
- Ask the children if they thought the story was funny? If yes, why? If no, why not?
- **Warn kids to be careful with fire and not handle fire without adult supervision**

## **Reading Comprehension:**

Ask the children:

- 1) "The hungry flames swallowed his eyebrows...." The author is referring to the flames as though it were a real person. What is this usage called?
- 2) What does "contemplate" mean?

Answer Key

- 1) Personification
- 2) Think deeply